

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 15-18 without prejudice.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue this subject matter in this or any other appropriate patent application. The cancellation of these claims makes no admission regarding the patentability of this subject matter and should not be so construed.

REMARKS

The Examiner has divided the claims into two groups and argued that each group of claims represents a distinct invention.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 11-14 and 30-31) in this application, with traverse.

In order to expedite prosecution and advance the case towards issuance, Applicant has cancelled non-elected claims 15-19 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and requests that the application be allowed and passed to issue.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136, applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension of time to take action in response to the Office Action mailed September 15, 1999. This extension of time is effective to allow timely filing of a response up to and including November 15, 1999.

A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed to cover the extension fee. If this fee is incorrect, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 12-2475 for the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

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